

Idaho EMSAC News

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Newsletter
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036

Meeting Dates

- June 26 & 27, 2008
Ameritel Boise Spectrum
7409 Overland Rd,
Boise, Idaho
-Grant Subcommittee meets on
June 26, Executive Session
to be held on June 27.

Call your regional EMS office for more
information

Call for “Resuscitation” of Education Subcommittee

On November 14, 2007, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Board of Directors “unanimously passed the motion to require applicants for national paramedic certification to graduate from a nationally accredited educational program after December 31, 2012, however the NREMT may revisit the issue of other levels in the future.” The NREMT decision has significant impact on the *National Education Agenda for the Future’s* accreditation program. While the EMS Education’s *Agenda for the Future* calls for accreditation at all levels, the NREMT motion only affects the paramedic level.

Why accreditation?

- Provides a consistent, objective mechanism for program evaluation
- Process of self-evaluation, peer site visitation, and commission review
- Defines minimum standards for educational programs and resources
- Assures quality of education in place
- Ensures public and student protection
- Allows federal student loan use
- EMTs across the country will be able to transfer to any state in the nation that follows the recommendations in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future*
- Provides a consistent education across the country

Professions that have attained accreditation and improved their educational system have enjoyed increased credibility as an occupation. Accreditation enhances education and ultimately patients receive improved pre-hospital care. Since the NREMT Board is not going to require accreditation below paramedic, the State of Idaho needs an alternative source of state level accreditation at the other EMT levels. EMSAC will be involved in assisting the EMS Bureau with the implementation process of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future* and attaining state level accreditation.

Associated tasks and decisions due by 2012, include rule changes, stand-up an accreditation body, instructor preparation/requirements, and transition of existing providers.

A motion to resuscitate the EMSAC Education Subcommittee has been accepted.

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Exam Standards Manual Rollout

Wayne Denny, the Standards & Compliance Section Manager, briefed the EMSAC General Session on the new Examination Standards Manual. The purpose of the new manual is to standardize examination processes in order to assure an equitable measure of competence for all examinees throughout the state. The new manual also introduces a few new processes and policies.



Key amongst the new additions are:

- Enables 17 year olds to test and gain certification in Idaho at the EMT-Basic level
- Policies and procedures for the computer based cognitive (written) examination, including the mobile cognitive examination service that the Bureau offers to communities greater than 50 miles from a testing center
- Processes for hosting cognitive and practical examinations

The new manual is available for download from the EMS Bureau's website www.IdahoEMS.org.

As of June, 2008, paper copies of the EMSAC newsletter will only be mailed to EMS agencies and EMSAC members. For a free subscription to the EMSAC e-newsletter contact the EMS Bureau at 334-4633, or minkm@dhw.idaho.gov. In addition, this newsletter is also published on the Bureau's website www.idahoems.org.

New Idaho Falls Regional Consultant

Justin Clemons, the new Idaho Falls Regional Consultant, starts work April 14, 2008. Justin holds a degree from Idaho State University in Biology and has been involved in the Idaho EMS system since 1999.

He has a diverse background as a firefighter and paramedic; retaining roles in the Idaho EMS Licensure Rules Task Force, chair of the ad hoc Extrication Subcommittee, and was recently appointed to the Emergency Services Training Advisory Council. In addition, he is an active member of the Idaho National Guard. The EMS Bureau is looking forward to working with Justin.



EMSAC Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Subcommittee

In October 2007, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) along with the Maternal Children Health Bureau revised the Emergency Medical Services for Children grant performance measures; seven of the ten measures were updated. Changes include revisions on how to collect annual data on performance measures; and adopting pediatric education requirements for recertification for EMT Basics and Paramedics (previously only Paramedics).

The new pediatric education requirements for recertification as agreed upon at the October EMSAC meeting will be included in the new Certification Standards Manual effective September 2008.

155 agency surveys (81% response rate) and 33 hospital surveys (91% response rate) have been returned. Based on the survey responses, 40 pediatric backboards and 25 pediatric jump kits are being delivered to agencies most in need. All hospitals who returned a survey will receive either a Broselow Tape or two pediatric bike helmets for their emergency department to hand out.

Bids have been received to conduct five Emergency Pediatric Care Combined Provider/Instructor courses; classes potentially could start in April. The next EMSC Subcommittee meeting will continue discussions on how to keep new instructors motivated and the EPC classes continuing throughout the state. A brochure regarding the new pediatric recertification recommendations and education opportunities will be dispersed via the Idaho EMS Listserv <http://groups.google.com/group/IdahoEMS>

Neeki Larsen reported on the newly formed Idaho Simulation Network (ISN) Steering Committee. The ISN is looking into coordinating courses for simulation training and help ensure that simulation is available to all levels of pre-hospital and hospital providers across the State of Idaho sometime in the future.

Grants Subcommittee

Application documents for the FY09 Dedicated Grant cycle were approved with the recommendation to clarify the Fiscal Section. A motion was passed to freeze the FY09 Maximum Price for Awards at the FY08 level. Vehicle radios that are not P-25 compliant were removed from the list. Application documents were mailed Feb. 14 to all Idaho licensed agencies; the return date is May 31, 2008.

Recommendations from the Rules Revision Task Force were reviewed along with a comparison of scoring from a sampling of actual applications from the FY07 grant cycle. The report showed the scoring using the current criteria and then compared it to the scoring if the recommendations were in effect. The grant subcommittee agreed the revisions were more equitable. If the recommendations are accepted, the soonest they would be in effect would be the FY11 grant cycle.

Denny Neibaur presented information on the Occupational Health Studies program. This course is taught in high schools to senior students interested in EMS training. Denny suggested the Dedicated Grant program could award additional scoring points to agencies participating as a "Partner in Education" by providing mentoring, field training, etc. to students enrolled in the courses. This suggestion will be presented to the Task Force for their recommendation.

Uses of future potential Training Grant funds were discussed with several options and needs considered. Due to the timing, the FY09 grant cycle will stand as it is currently.

The subcommittee voted to have the Education Subcommittee reinstated. This motion was affirmed in the General Session.

Licensure Subcommittee

The EMSAC Licensure Subcommittee welcomed several new members and reviewed one EMS agency application upgrade request. Ada County Paramedics was licensed at the ALS-2 level which allows pre-hospital and interfacility transfers and upgraded to ALS-1, which includes critical care transfer ability.

Russ Pierson, Standards and Compliance Specialist, completed an agency inspection on January 16, 2008. The Licensure Subcommittee reviewed a Power Point presentation with photos of agency vehicles, personnel and equipment and made a motion to approve the upgrade request.



***New pediatric
education
requirements
will be in the
updated
Certification
Standards
Manual***



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Advisory Committee Newsletter
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